

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-02 SSM-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 EB-07 /099 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/EOJONES

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

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O 202159Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL; CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 20

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1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
SEPTEMBER 20:

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON THE ISRAELI-U.S. TALKS
REGARDING THE GULF?

A. AS YOU KNOW, ON THE 16TH AND 17TH UNDER SECRETARY
HABIB AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON HELD TALKS WITH
AMBASSADOR DINITZ AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON, OF
THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE
ACTIVITIES OF AN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY IN THE GULF OF SUEZ,
AND I WOULD JUST OBSERVE THAT THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
WAS USEFUL IN CLARIFYING THE SITUATION AND THAT EXCHANGES
ON THE SUBJECT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC --

Q. THEY ARE STILL MEETING? THEY HAVE LEFT?

A. NO, THEY ARE NOT STILL MEETING, BUT THE EXCHANGES ON
THE SUBJECT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

Q. WILL KISSINGER DISCUSS IT WITH ALLON IN NEW YORK?

A. YES.
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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE JACK ANDERSON
COLUMN TODAY, CONCERNING THE ALLEGED PLO FUND-RAISING
ACTIVITY IN THIS COUNTRY?

A. WITH REGARD TO THE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN THE
ANDERSON STORY, WE ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE
FACTS AS REPORTED BY MR. ANDERSON ARE CORRECT; AND I WOULD

JUST SAY THAT SHOULD IT TURN OUT THAT ANY MEMBERS OF THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION TO THE U.N. ARE INVOLVED IN FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY, SUCH ACTIVITY WOULD CLEARLY BE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THEY WERE ADMITTED.

NOW WE ARE INVESTIGATING AND WE WILL DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION BASED ON THE RESULTS OF OUR INVESTIGATION. I DO NOT THINK I CAN REALLY ADD MUCH TO THAT. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

Q. SHOULD IT PROVE CORRECT, WHAT WOULD YOUR STAND BE? WHAT KIND OF ACTION COULD BE CONTEMPLATED?

A. I THINK IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR ME TO OFFER A PROJECTION AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT DO. WE ARE LOOKING INTO IT AND WE ARE GOING TO DETERMINE THE FACTS AND THEN CONSIDER WHAT STEPS TO TAKE. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE A SERIOUS MATTER AND I SUPPOSE IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT ONE POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE EXPULSION, BUT I THINK THAT AT THIS MOMENT, WHILE WE ARE LOOKING INTO IT, I WOULD NOT CARE TO PROJECT A GUESS BEYOND THAT.

Q. WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT EXPULSION? WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT EXPULSION, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT INDIVIDUALS, OR THE PLO DELEGATION AS A WHOLE?

A. I THINK IT WOULD BE IN TERMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

Q. WHAT DID YOU DO ABOUT THE INDIVIDUALS WHO BROKE THE RULES ON POLITICAL STATEMENTS IN TWO DIFFERENT INSTANCES IN THE PAST?

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A. YOU ARE REFERRING TO THE GENTLEMAN WHO WENT TO CHICAGO?

Q. THERE ARE TWO INSTANCES: ONE AROUND THANKSGIVING TIME; AND ONE SUBSEQUENTLY.

A. I REMEMBER ONE, WITH MR. AL-HOUT, AND OUR VERY SERIOUS CONCERN WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE OBSERVER MISSION WITH REGARD TO THE ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT TO ADHERE TO THE TERMS OF THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS -- WHEN EXCEPTIONS ARE GIVEN TO THOSE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE GROUND RULES BE ADHERED TO.

SO OUR VIEW WAS MADE KNOWN TO THE OBSERVER MISSION IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ASSURANCES FROM THEM? HAVE YOU HAD ASSURANCES FROM THEM THAT THESE WOULD NOT RECUR?

A. I AM NOT INFORMED AS TO WHAT THEIR REPLY WAS.

Q. IS FUND-RAISING SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT BY THE TERMS OF THE PLO FUNCTION IN NEW YORK?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER -- FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE CLEARLY OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE ACTIVITIES, AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THEY WERE ADMITTED TO THE COUNTRY. IT WOULD BE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE.

Q. NO, BUT THAT COULD BE AN INTERPRETATION OF A GENERAL MANDATE.

I WAS JUST WONDERING IF IT IS ACTUALLY WRITTEN SOMEWHERE THAT "IF YOU ARE A DELEGATION TO THE U.N. YOU CANNOT ENGAGE IN FUND-RAISING." IS THERE SUCH A --

A. I CANNOT ANSWER THE QUESTION THE WAY YOU PUT IT, BUT I CAN SAY THAT IF IN FACT IT TURNS OUT THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES, THAT WOULD BE CLEARLY OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THEY WERE ADMITTED TO THIS
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COUNTRY.

Q. LEAVING ASIDE THIS PARTICULAR DELEGATION WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ABOUT FUND-RAISING FOR THE PLO, PER SE, IN THE UNITED STATES? WOULD YOU SUPPORT IT MORALLY?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT.

Q. HOW DOES THIS INVESTIGATION WORK? DO YOU GO TO THE PLO AND ASK THEM IF THEY HAVE DONE THIS? OR DO YOU TRY TO DETERMINE IT INDEPENDENTLY?

A. AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE ARE ASKING THE UN SECRETARIAT TO CONVEY TO THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION -- TO CONTACT THE MISSION AND CONVEY OUR SERIOUS CONCERN SHOULD THESE ALLEGATIONS BE CORRECT. NOW I CANNOT GIVE YOU THE MANNER IN WHICH WE ARE LOOKING INTO THIS REPORT. I SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

Q. I AM A LITTLE BIT CONFUSED. IS THIS THE NORMAL WAY YOU OPERATE WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS? YOU ARE ALMOST ASSUMING THAT THEY DID VIOLATE THE RULES.

A. NO, NOT AT ALL.

Q. -- ALTHOUGH YOU HAVEN'T DETERMINED IT YET. DO YOU NORMALLY GO INTO ANOTHER COUNTRY, OR PARTY, OR DELEGATION -- AND SAY THAT IF YOU DID WHAT HAS BEEN CHARGED -- AND FACE THESE THINGS?

A. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANY NORMAL -- THIS IS AN UNUSUAL SITUATION SO I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANY NORMAL WAY OF OPERATING. BUT IN THIS CASE I CAN TELL YOU THAT WE ARE WORKING THROUGH THE U.N. SECRETARIAT ON IT. WE ARE LOOKING INTO IT.

Q. WELL SUPPOSEDLY, SOME AMOUNT OF MONEY WAS SENT FROM SOME GROUP IN VIRGINIA TO THE PLO. DO YOU KNOW IF SUCH A GROUP EXISTS?

A. I DO NOT.
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2. FYI. THE FOLLOWING HAD BEEN PROVIDED AS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE TO THE SPOKESMAN PRIOR TO THE ABOVE BRIEFING:

Q. IS THE JACK ANDERSON STORY ON PLO FUND-RAISING IN THE US CORRECT AND, IF SO, WHAT IS THE USG DOING ABOUT IT?

A. WE ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE FACTS AS REPORTED IN THE JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE ARE CORRECT. SHOULD IT TURN OUT THAT ANY MEMBERS OF THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY IT WOULD CLEARLY BE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THEY WERE ADMITTED TO THIS COUNTRY. WE ARE INVESTIGATING AND WILL DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION.

Q. HOW ARE YOU TRYING TO DETERMINE THE FACTS?

A. WE ARE URGENTLY LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER. AMONG OTHER THINGS WE ARE ASKING THE UN SECRETARIAT TO CONTACT THE PLO AND TO CONVEY OUR SERIOUS CONCERN SHOULD THE ALLEGATIONS BE CORRECT.

Q. IF THIS STORY IS TRUE, WOULD IT BE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION OF THOSE INVOLVED?

A. WE CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION AT THIS POINT. FIRST, WE ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE THE FACTS. WE WILL THEN HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT STEPS WE WILL TAKE. IT WOULD BE A

SERIOUS MATTER AND ONE POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE
EXPULSION.

Q. WHO IS ZOHER TARAZI?

A. ZUHDI TERZI (FYI: YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THIS
IS THE CORRECT SPELLING. END FYI.) IS THE DIRECTOR OF
THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q. IS THE PLO REGISTERED WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AS
A FOREIGN AGENT?

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A. THE PLO UN OBSERVER OFFICE IS NOT REGISTERED WITH THE
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AS A FOREIGN AGENT. THEY HAVE AN
OFFICE IN NEW YORK UNDER THE TERMS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 3237 OF 1974 WHICH ACCORDED THE PLO OBSERVER
STATUS. ANDERSON MAY HAVE CONFUSED THE PLO OBSERVER OFFICE
WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE INFORMATION OFFICE WHICH IS, IN FACT,
REGISTERED AS A FOREIGN AGENT WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.
(ANDERSON SAID PLO WAS REGISTERED, BUT ONLY FOR INFORMATION
ACTIVITIES, NOT FUND-RAISING.)

Q. HAS THIS MAN VIOLATED TRAVEL REGS?

A. TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. WAS HE THE MAN WHO VIOLATED TRAVEL REGULATIONS VISITING
SENATOR ABOUREZK?

A. NO, THAT WAS SHAFIA AL-HOUT.

ROBINSON

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